

Wilson Perseveres in Budget Battle and Brings Home Nearly \$8 million for Ohio's Sixth Congressional District

\$1,087,500 headed to Belmont & Jefferson Counties

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) today announced that \$7,987,643 in federal dollars could soon be headed directly to Ohio's Sixth District, with \$1,087,500 of that money going to support growth and recovery in Belmont and Jefferson Counties. The federal funds are part of the \$410 billion Omnibus spending bill which passed the House today and will wrap up Congress' work on 2009 appropriations. The bill still awaits Senate passage.

This legislation works in harmony with the recently enacted economic recovery package, making investments that address the country's immediate needs while investing in our long term economic strength. The bill cuts and eliminates programs that haven't performed the way they should, and includes strict accountability measures to ensure that American tax dollars are spent wisely. It invests in oversight efforts carried out by the Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office. The bill makes great improvements in the following areas.

- **Energy Security:** Increases funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts, to increase the production of clean, efficient, American energy key to our long term economic security.
- **Scientific Research:** Makes strong investments into cutting edge science so that our nation will maintain its preeminence in the global economy.
- **Healthcare Access and Affordability:** Improves access to quality, affordable healthcare.
- **Education to Promote Opportunity:** Promotes our future economic strength by investing

in K-12 education and helping families send their kids to college.

- **Workers:** Helps American workers in the tough economy train for and find good jobs in safe workplaces.
- **Safe and Healthy America:** Protects Americans by investing in programs to ensure clean air and water, and the safety of our food, medicine and consumer products.
- **Regulation for an Economy in Chaos:** Strengthens regulatory agencies that had been neglected, to beef up their efforts during the economic crisis.

In addition, earmarks have been further reduced by 5% below last year's levels, building on last year's 43% reduction. "I'm proud of this spending bill," Wilson said. "We've made responsible cuts, but are spending money where it needs to be spent. If there's one thing I hear a lot from people all along the Ohio River and up into Mahoning and Columbiana Counties is that they feel Ohio doesn't always get its fair share," Wilson said. "I'm proud to bring nearly \$8 million back home in federal investment. Each of these projects will help our district; these aren't bridges to nowhere."

For example,

Wilson

, along with Sen. George Voinovich, successfully secured \$951,500 for an advanced carbon capture and storage project at the R.E. Burger Power Plant in Shadyside, Ohio.

“We know that this plant is at risk in our community,” Wilson said. “I’m doing everything I can to help save this plant and the workers’ jobs.”

In addition, Wilson secured \$50,000 for the Belmont County Sheriff Department which is in need of new equipment in order to bring their force up to others in the area.

The department will be able to purchase: two in-car digital eyewitness video systems, two radar units, 15 bullet proof vests, ten pairs of night vision goggles, and five laptop computers to be used in mobile command units and in the field.

“I believe our local law enforcement has had to do too much with too little for too long,” Wilson said. “I’m proud we’re reversing that trend, keeping our citizens and our officers safer.”

Finally, Wilson secured \$86,000 for the Dillonvale Senior Center in Jefferson County. Senior centers play a vital role in the Dillonvale community. These centers offer seniors age 60 and older a place to go for nutritious meals, social activities, volunteer opportunities, health screenings, health and consumer education, creative arts, exercise and more.

“Dillonvale Senior Center is a wonderful model,” Wilson said, “but it is in need of structural improvements and additional equipment.”

The bill is now headed to the Senate for passage. Senate passage is likely next week.

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